

# Huasteca Nahuatl

**Huasteca Nahuatl** is a Nahuan language spoken by over a million people in the region of La Huasteca in Mexico, centered in the states of Hidalgo (Eastern) and San Luis Potosí (Western).<sup>[3]</sup>

Ethnologue divides Huasteca Nahuatl into three languages: Eastern, Central, and Western, as they judge that separate literature is required, but notes that there is 85% mutual intelligibility between Eastern and Western. Half of Eastern speakers know no Spanish.<sup>[4]</sup>

XEANT-AM radio broadcasts in Huasteca Nahuatl.

## Contents

**Demographics**

**Phonology**

Vowels

Consonants

**Orthography**

**Notes**

**References**

## Demographics

Huasteca Nahuatl is spoken in the following municipalities in the states of Hidalgo, Veracruz, and San Luis Potosí.<sup>[5]</sup>

### Hidalgo (121,818 speakers)

- Huejutla Reyes (56,377 speakers)
- Huautla (18,444 speakers)
- Yahualica (14,584 speakers)
- Xochiatipan (12,990 speakers)
- Atlapexco (12,445 speakers)
- Jaltocan (6,978 speakers)

### Veracruz (98,162 speakers)

- Chicontepec (41,678 speakers)
- Ixhuatlán de Madero (21,682 speakers)
- Benito Juárez (11,793 speakers)
- Ilamantlan (9,689 speakers)
- Ixcatepec (6,949 speakers)

<b>Huasteca Nahuatl</b>	
<b>Native to</b>	Mexico
<b>Region</b>	La Huasteca (San Luis Potosí, Hidalgo, Puebla, Veracruz)
<b>Native speakers</b>	(1.0 million cited 1991–2000) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Language family</b>	Uto-Aztecán <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Aztecán (Nahuan)</li> <li>■ Nahuatl</li> <li>■ <b>Huasteca Nahuatl</b></li> </ul>
<b>Writing system</b>	Latin
<b>Language codes</b>	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	Variously: nhe – Eastern (Veracruz) nch – Central nhw – Western (Tamazunchale)
<b>Glottolog</b>	huas1257 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/lang/oid/id/huas1257">http://glottolog.org/resource/lang/oid/id/huas1257</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

- Zontecomatlán (6,371 speakers)

## **San Luis Potosí (108,471 speakers)**

- Tamazunchale (35,773 speakers)
- Axtla de Terrazas (17,401 speakers)
- Xilitla (16,646 speakers)
- Matlapa (16,286 speakers)
- Coxcatlan (12,300 speakers)
- Chalchicuautla (10,065 speakers)

## **Phonology**

---

The following description is that of Eastern Huasteca.

### **Vowels**

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>High</u>	i i̥	
<u>Mid-high</u>	e e̥	
<u>Mid-low</u>		o o̥
<u>Low</u>	a ḁ	

### **Consonants**

Huasteca Nahuatl consonants

	<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>		<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>		<u>Glottal</u>
		<u>central</u>	<u>lateral</u>		<u>plain</u>	<u>labialized</u>	
<u>Nasal</u>	m	n					
<u>Plosive</u>	p	t			k, g	kʷ	?
<u>Affricate</u>		ts	tʂ	tʃ			
<u>Continuant</u>		s		ʃ			h
<u>Semivowel</u>				j		w	
<u>Liquid</u>		r	l				

## **Orthography**

---

Huasteca Nahuatl currently has several proposed orthographies, most prominent among them those of the Instituto de Docencia e Investigación Etnológica de Zacatecas (IDIEZ),<sup>[6]</sup> Mexican government publications, and the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL).<sup>[7]</sup>

### **IDIEZ**

- Their orthography is based on the evolution of Classical Nahuatl. It is somewhat of a deep orthography based on morphology since it aims to provide a unified system across regions.
- uses ⟨ca⟩, ⟨que⟩, ⟨qui⟩, ⟨co⟩ for /k/
- takes morphology into account
- uses ⟨za⟩, ⟨ce⟩, ⟨ci⟩, ⟨zo⟩ for /s/
- uses ⟨h⟩ for /h/

## Mexican government publications

- Is influenced by modern Spanish conventions and is a very surface-based orthography. It aims to provide easy literacy across regions but with a different writing system in each one.
- uses ⟨k⟩ for /k/
- does not take morphology into account
- uses ⟨s⟩ for /s/
- uses ⟨j⟩ for /h/

## SIL

- Somewhat based on modern Spanish conventions, mostly surface-based orthography as well but does not completely dispose of Classical Nahuatl conventions.
- uses ⟨ca⟩, ⟨que⟩, ⟨qui⟩, ⟨co⟩ for /k/
- does not take morphology into account
- uses ⟨s⟩ for /s/
- uses ⟨j⟩ for /h/

Sample text: 'a book about my location.'

- IDIEZ: ce tlahcuiolli tleh campa niitztoc.
- Government: se tlajkuiloli tlej kampa niitstok
- SIL: se tlajcuiolli tlej campa niitztoc

## Notes

---

1. Eastern (Veracruz) (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/nhe/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)  
 Central (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/nch/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)  
 Western (Tamazunchale) (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/nhw/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Huasteca Nahuatl" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/huas1257>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Kimball: p. 196.
4. Eastern Huasteca Nahuatl ([https://www.ethnologue.com/16/show\\_language/nhe](https://www.ethnologue.com/16/show_language/nhe)) at *Ethnologue* (16th ed., 2009)
5. Rodríguez & Valderrama 2005: page 168.
6. IDIEZ:[1] (<http://www.macehualli.org>).
7. Bible.is: Old Testament in Eastern Huasteca Nahuatl (<http://www.bible.is/NHETBL/Gen/1>).

## References

---

- Kimball, Geoffrey (1990). "Noun Pluralization in Eastern Huasteca Nahuatl". *International Journal of American Linguistics*. 56 (2): 196–216. doi:10.1086/466150 (<https://doi.org/10.1086%2F466150>).
- Rodríguez López, María Teresa, and Pablo Valderrama Rouy. 2005. "The Gulf Coast Nahua." In Sandstrom, Alan R., and Enrique Hugo García Valencia. 2005. *Native peoples of the Gulf Coast of Mexico*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.
- Beller, Richard; Patricia Beller (1979). "Huasteca Nahuatl". In Ronald Langacker (ed.). *Studies in Uto-Aztec Grammar 2: Modern Aztec Grammatical Sketches*. Summer Institute of Linguistics Publications in Linguistics, 56. Dallas, TX: Summer Institute of Linguistics and the University of Texas at Arlington. pp. 199–306. ISBN 0-88312-072-0. OCLC 6086368 (<https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/6086368>).
- Stiles, Neville Náhuatl in the Huasteca Hidalguense: A Case Study in the Sociology of Language (1983) PhD Thesis, University of St. Andrews, Scotland.

---

Retrieved from "[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Huasteca\\_Nahuatl&oldid=959704427](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Huasteca_Nahuatl&oldid=959704427)"

---

This page was last edited on 30 May 2020, at 05:24 (UTC).

Text is available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#); additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.